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Cap Haitien, Haiti

"The mission was a New Horizons mission in which a group of 10 soldiers from 93d Signal Brigade provided communications for a task force consisting of active Army soldiers, Army National Guard soldiers, Army Reserve soldiers, active-duty Marines and active-duty Navy corpsmen. The mission was titled Operation Justinien Cause and was divided into several phases.

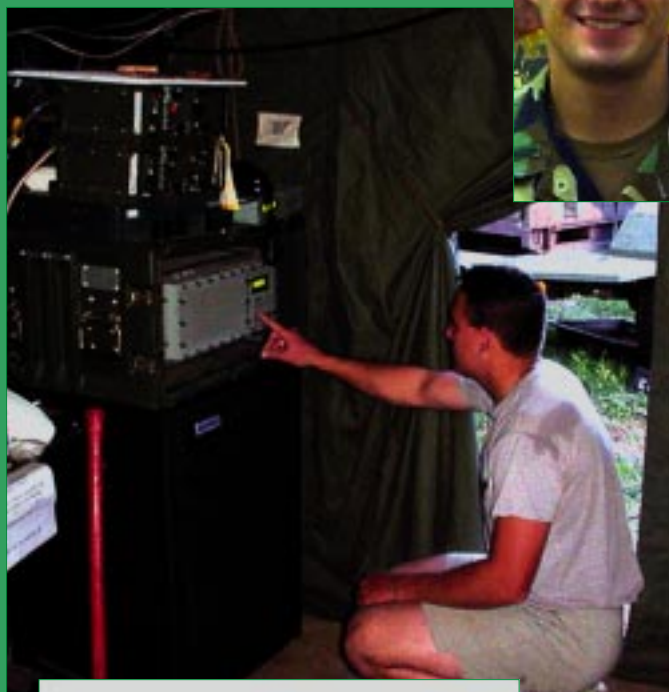
"The mission's focus was to provide humanitarian support for the local population in and around the city of Cap Haitien, the second largest city in Haiti. This support consisted of adding rooms and latrine facilities to a school; rewiring and installing back-up power generators at the hospital; and providing free medical care to about 25,000 Haitians. Army medical personnel treated everything from dental problems to Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome to diarrhea - and everything in-between.

"The 10 Signal soldiers from 93d Signal Brigade came from four different companies. We provided tactical-satellite connectivity and distributed both secure and non-secure methods of transmitting voices and data messages from a cow pasture in Haiti to anywhere in the world.

"We slept in tents and ate Army T-rations and meals-ready-to-eat for about four months during a summer (May-September 2000) in which the norm was Heat Category 5 by 9 a.m. We professionally and successfully performed all tasks from fixing computer problems to guard duty to waste burning. We also acted as the task force's morale officers by building a make-shift volleyball court, tables for card-playing, a professional morale, welfare and recreation phone-call tent and many other services which made the experience pass more quickly and enjoyably for all the task force's soldiers.

"Everyone on the base camp viewed the Signal detachment as the most squared-away section. This started with the first morning when, as the rest of the task force was pulling on-site, we had worked through the night and already established all communications services while providing our own security in the midst of about 50 curious local Haitians. We held true to the label of first in, last out, and provided

The Signal experience



A soldier in Haiti resets the FCC-100. American soldiers enjoy their morale, welfare and recreation calls 93d Signal Brigade soldiers set up for them.

seamless communications support to the task force from the first day through the scare of Hurricane Debby to the last day.

"In spite of our sparse surroundings, we came out of the deployment with many new experiences and friendships that will last a lifetime."